

FY-2004-2005 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK for:
Steamboat Lake Water Lease

Project #: 67

Lead Agency: Water Acquisition Committee

Submitted by: George Smith
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 25486, DFC, Denver, CO 80225-0486
Phone: (303) 236-5322 ex 235
Fax: (303) 236-4224
george_smith@fws.gov

Date: June 18, 2003

Category:

- ☒ Ongoing project
- ☐ Ongoing-revised project
- ☐ Requested new start

Expected Funding Source:

- ☐ Annual funds
- ☐ Capital funds
- ☒ O&M funds

I. Title of Proposal: Steamboat Lake Water Lease (5 Year Temporary)

II. Relation to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan: Yampa and Little Snake Rivers

I.B.2.a.(1)(b) Lease up to 2,000 AF from Steamboat Lake to augment late summer flows.

III. Study Background/Rationale and Hypotheses:

The lease of water from Steamboat Lake may help stabilize late summer flows in the Yampa River to maintain habitat for Colorado pikeminnow in the Yampa River. It is hypothesized that late summer flows in dry years may impede pikeminnow movement and decrease the extent of pool habitat.

IV. Study Goals/Objectives and End Products:

The goal of the effort is to provide a reliable source of late summer water for the Yampa River to maintain river habitat quality when needed.

V. Study Area:

The Yampa River from Steamboat Springs to the confluence with the Green River.

VI. Study Method/Approach:

As needed, the Recovery Implementation Program may lease water from the Colorado Division of Parks (Parks), which owns Steamboat Lake. The lease will be for up to 2,000 acre-feet as identified in the Management Plan for the Recovery Program in the

Yampa Basin. A lease price of \$40 per acre-foot has been estimated by an appraisal by Parks for 2004-2005. This interim lease will span the period between 2004 and the time the enlargement of Elkhead Reservoir is completed. Recovery Program Staff will work with Parks and the CWCB to renegotiate the lease for 5 to 7 years.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Parks is willing and able to lease to the Service up to 2,000 acre-feet of water for the lease payment described in paragraph (2) below. The point of delivery for Parks is the outlet works of Willow Creek dam.
2. The Service/Recovery Program shall make a payment of up to \$80,000 to Parks. The annual payment shall be payable to Parks no later than December 31 of each year. Payment shall only be made after the quantity of water identified herein has been released and shall be paid at the unit price of \$40.00 per acre-foot. The unit price shall be applied only to the quantity of water actually released.
3. The Service shall notify the CWCB in writing when requesting release of water under this lease. CWCB will immediately notify Parks of such a request. Parks shall store and subsequently release at the direction of the CWCB, pursuant to the request of the Service, up to 2,000 acre-feet of water between July 1 and November 1 of each year. The rate of release shall not exceed 200 cubic feet per second as measured at the release point.
4. During the period of July 1-August 15, no more than 25 cfs shall be released, and the rate shall not vary unless approved by Parks.
5. During the period of August 16-October 31, releases shall be made at a specific rate not to vary more than once a week. Parks will make a good faith effort to honor all release requests; however, Parks' obligation to make such releases will be dependant on weather conditions. If releases from the reservoir are deemed impractical due to weather related conditions such as icing and freezing, or if flooding conditions exist within the Willow Creek Basin, Parks' obligation will be terminated until such time that weather conditions allow.
6. No releases shall take place during emergency conditions that prevent the operation of the dam outlet works.
7. Parks will maintain all necessary measuring devices.

V. FY-2004 Budget: Colorado Division of Parks Lease: \$ 80,000

FY-2005 Budget: \$80,000 is assumed. Once a firm lease price is established the budget would be fixed for 5 to 7 additional years. The lease will be completed before the 2004 low flow period in late summer.

VI. Reviewers: N/A (ongoing project).

VII. References: N/A.